

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS BERLIN 6059

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, GE

SUBJECT: OFFICE SPACE IN EAST BERLIN

REF: STATE 246561

1. ON NOVEMBER 11, DIRECTOR OF GDR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES OFFICE LOEFFLER INFORMED US THAT ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE FOR THE TEMPORARY CHANCERY IS NOW AVAILABLE IN TWO CONFIGURATIONS. THE FIRST ARRANGEMENT WOULD ADD TO OUR PRESENT FOURTEEN ROOM SUITE THE ADDITIONAL SIX ROOMS ALSO LOCATED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE BUILDING WE NOW OCCUPY. THE SECOND POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO OBTAIN AN IDENTICAL FOURTEEN ROOM SUITE OF OFFICES ON THE SIXTH FLOOR, IMMEDIATELY ABOVE OUR PRESENT SPACE. LOEFFLER MAINTAINS THAT IF WE ADOPT THE SECOND SOLUTION IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, IN VIEW OF PRESSING DEMANDS FOR SPACE BY OTHERS, TO OBTAIN THE ADDITIONAL SIX ROOMS ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

2. LOEFFLER HAS ASKED US TO DECIDE AS PROMPTLY AS WE CAN ON EITHER A COMPLEX OF FOURTEEN AND SIX OFFICES ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, OR TWO TIERS OF FOURTEEN ROOM OFFICE SUITES ONE ABOVE THE OTHER.

3. FOR OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS THE ARRANGEMENT OF FOUR PLUS SIX ON THE FIFTH FLOOR IS SNUG BUT ADEQUATE. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF SECURITY, MARINE GUARDS WILL

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EFFECTIVELY BE ABLE TO SURVEY OFFICES IN THIS

CONFIGURATION.

4. THINKING AHEAD TO OUR NEEDS BEFORE WE MOVE INTO THE PERMANENT CHANCERY, HOWEVER, I.E., THE LIKELIHOOD OF STAFF INCREASES NOT ONLY FROM STATE BUT ALSO FROM OTHER AGENCIES, THE CONFIGURATION OF FOURTEEN PLUS SIX OFFICES WILL CLEARLY BE INADEQUATE. THIS WILL GIVE RISE TO THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL OFFICE SPACE AT A TIME WHEN WE MAY HAVE PRECLUDED BY DECISIONS WE MAKE NOW THE AVAILABILITY OF SPACE IN OUR PRESENT BUILDING -- IF WE DECIDE NOW TO ACCEPT THE MINIMUM CONFIGURATION OF FOURTEEN PLUS SIX OFFICES ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

5. THERE IS AN ADVANTAGE TO OBTAINING THE ADDITIONAL FOURTEEN OFFICES (AT THE EXPENSE OF SIX) IN LIGHT OF FORESEEABLE FUTURE NEEDS. WE ARE ALREADY, FOR INSTANCE, GIVING UP TWO ROOMS TO A CONFERENCE FACILITY AND TWO TO THE RECEPTION AND MARINE GUARD AREA. THE PROBLEM OF SECURITY, MOREOVER, COULD BE RESOLVED BY RESTRICTING CLASSIFIED MATERIALS TO ONLY ONE OF THESE FOURTEEN ROOM SUITES. NEVERTHELESS THE CONFIGURATION WOULD BE AWKWARD, WITH WHAT LOEFFLER HAS DESCRIBED AS COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES OCCUPYING THE SIX ROOM OFFICE COMPLEXES ON BOTH THE FIFTH AND SIXTH FLOORS OF OUR BUILDING SHOULD WE DECIDE TO LIMIT OURSELVES TO THE TWO FOURTEEN ROOM SUITES.

6. AT PRESENT WE HAVE THE OPTION OF EITHER CHOICE ADVANCED BY LOEFFLER. WE RECOMMEND TRYING ANOTHER TACK, NAMELY THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM LOEFFLER THAT WE FORESEE A NEED NOW FOR THE ADDITIONAL SIX ROOM SUITE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR, AND THAT WE WILL NEED AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE SIX ADDITIONAL ROOMS IN THE SAME BUILDING AND AS NEAR THE FIFTH FLOOR AS POSSIBLE. (THESE WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR EXAMPLE FOR CONSULAR, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES.) OUR ARGUMENT FOR THIS SOLUTION SHOULD BE STRONG. AS A FALLBACK, WE SHOULD RESTRICT OURSELVES TO THE FOURTEEN AND SIX ROOM OFFICE SUITES ON THE FIFTH FLOOR.

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7. PLEASE ADVISE.GROVE

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